



**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY WHIP
THE HONORABLE JAMES E. CLYBURN (SC-06)**

THE WHIP PACK

WEEK OF JULY 30, 2007

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BILL TEXT AND BACKGROUND FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 30, 2007

- S. 1 – A bill to provide greater transparency in the legislative process
- Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 1495 - Water Resources Development Act of 2007
- H.R. 986 - Eightmile Wild and Scenic River Act
- H.R. 2831 – Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2007
- H.R. 3159 - Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act of 2007
- Conference Report on H.R. 2272 - America COMPETES Act
- H.R. 3161 – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008
- H.R. 3222 – FY08 Defense Appropriations Act
- H.R. 3162 – Children’s Health and Medicare Protection Act
- H.R. 2776 - Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007
- H.R. 3221 - New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act

S. 1 – A BILL TO PROVIDE GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

(Sen. Reid – Judiciary)

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

On Tuesday, the House will consider H.R. 3162, the final House-Senate agreement on the Honest Leadership, Open Government Act of 2007. This is tough legislation designed to end the culture of corruption and restore accountability in Washington. The bill ends the tight-knit relationship between lobbyists and lawmakers and takes another major step toward making the 110th Congress the most open, honest Congress in history.

The Honest Leadership, Open Government Act of 2007:

- **New transparency for lobbyist bundling campaign contributions:** For the first time, requires reporting on lobbyists who “bundle,” or collect campaign checks for Members of Congress. Requires the Member’s campaign to report if lobbyist bundled more than \$15,000 in campaign contributions semiannually for that Member.
- **Historic disclosure of other financial contributions to Members:** Increases disclosure of lobbyists’ contributions to lawmakers and entities controlled by lawmakers, including contributions to Members’ charities, to events or entities honoring members, contributions intended to pay the cost of a meeting or a retreat, and contributions to Presidential library funds.
- **Lavish convention parties:** Prohibits Members of Congress from attending national political convention parties held in their honor and paid for by lobbyists or their clients.
- **Ends K-Street Project:** Bans the K-Street Project, which prohibits private entities from hiring and firing based on politics.
- **Expands public disclosure of lobbyist activities:** Doubles the frequency of the disclosure of Lobbyists’ Reports to four times a year. Establishes an online, searchable public database of lobbyist disclosure information. Requires lobbyists to disclose past executive branch and Congressional employment. Prohibits lobbyists from giving gifts and travel in violation of House and Senate rules. Increases criminal and civil penalties for violating the Lobby Disclosure Act to \$200,000 and five years in prison.
- **Ending conflicts of interest and strengthening restrictions on post congressional employment:** Requires sitting Members to disclose job negotiations for post-Congressional employment and to recuse themselves for purposes of a conflict of interest. It also strengthens the revolving door banning Senators from lobbying their colleagues for two years. Requires Members to prohibit their staff from having any official contact with the Members’ lobbyist spouse on behalf of the spouse’s client.
- **Strengthen Senate Ethics Rules, similar to already enacted House Reforms:** Includes a variety of changes to Senate rules, including a ban on gift and travel by lobbyists, full disclosure of earmarks, points of order against out of scope earmarks and limits on secret holds.

- **Congressional Pension Accountability:** Denies taxpayer-funded pension benefits to Members of Congress convicted of corruption while serving the American people.
- **Expands public disclosure of Members' travel and finances:** Establishes an online, searchable public database of Member travel and personal financial disclosure forms.
- **Disclosure of stealth lobbying:** Closes a loophole in current law that permits coalitions -- such as the one that funded the extensive "Harry and Louise" ad campaign that targeted health care legislation in 1993-94 -- to avoid disclosing their clients.

Fact Sheets, Talking Points & Organization Statements:

[Text of House-Senate Agreement](#)

Lobbying Reform House-Senate Agreement, Fact Sheet, Office of the Speaker

[Support Letter](#): Campaign Legal Center, League of Women Voters, Common Cause
Public Citizen, Democracy 21 U.S. PIRG

[Issue Page on the Honest Leadership, Open Government Act of 2007](#), Office of the Speaker

**CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY H.R. 1495 - WATER RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007** *(Rep. Oberstar—Transportation and Infrastructure)*

[Text of the Conference Report and Joint Explanatory Statement](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee: Tuesday, July 31, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. in H-313, the Capitol, [Special Announcement](#)

Committee: [Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-4472

PROVISIONS IN THE H.R. 1495 CONFERENCE REPORT

- Authorizes 48 Reports of the Chief of Engineers, including nine projects for navigation, 15 projects for environmental restoration, seven projects for hurricane and storm damage reduction, and 13 projects for flood control. Authorization of these Chief's Reports represent approximately \$11.5 billion in project authorization.
- Authorizes 138 projects under the Corps of Engineers continuing authorities programs. These are statutory authorities for small flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, navigation, shoreline stabilization, and projects for improvement of the environment.
- Authorizes 100 studies for the Corps of Engineers, covering all of the Corps missions of flood control, navigation, ecosystem restoration, and water supply.
- Modifies approximately 160 existing projects of the Corps of Engineers to allow the Corps to meet the needs of our nations with respect to ongoing flood control, navigation, environmental restoration, and multipurpose projects.
- Authorizes approximately 400 new projects for the Corps of Engineers, including projects for navigation, flood control, environmental restoration, recreation, and environmental infrastructure.
- Authorizes and modifies three critical programs for the restoration of coastal Louisiana, the restoration of the Florida Everglades, and the restoration of the Upper Mississippi River and the Illinois Waterway System, along with the construction of seven new 1,200 foot locks on the system
 - **Louisiana Coastal Area:** Authorizes approximately \$1.9 billion the Corps of Engineers to carry out the comprehensive program for the restoration of the Louisiana Coastal Area. This program will help restore populated and coastal areas significantly impacted by Hurricane Katrina, and will help in preventing future damage from hurricanes and storm surge, by slowing the continuing land loss, and replenishing the coastal marshes of southern Louisiana. This section also authorizes the Corps to integrate into this comprehensive program the find findings of a current Corps study for "category 5" protection for coastal Louisiana. Finally, this section deauthorizes and calls for the physical closure of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet ("MRGO")

- **Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System:** The Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterways System provides authorization for navigation improvements and ecosystem restoration. The authorization provides for small-scale and non-structural navigation improvements as well as construction for seven new 1200-foot locks on the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System. Approximately, \$2 billion is authorized for the navigation improvements. The bill also authorizes a critical ecosystem restoration program. The ecosystem restoration provides for comprehensive restoration activities throughout the basin and authorizes approximately \$1.6 billion for this work.
- **Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan:** Authorizes for the first three project components of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, authorizes in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000: Indian River Lagoon, Picayune Strand, and Site 1 Impoundment. Directs the Corps of Engineers to expedite completion of an ongoing study of water deliveries through the Tamiami Trail to achieve necessary flows called for in the Modified Water Deliveries project for restoration of the Everglades, and to recommend a resolution to this project for authorization in the Water Resources Development Act.
- **Programmatic Changes for the Corps of Engineers:** WRDA 2007 also includes important policy provisions that address concerns with the Corps planning and mitigation process. These provisions reflect needed changes that have been identified in the past several years and were highlighted by some of the problems discovered as a result of Hurricane Katrina.
 - **Independent Peer Review:** WRDA 2007 directs the Corps to undertake Independent Peer Review when certain cost thresholds are met, a Governor of an affected state requests it, or if the Chief of Engineers determines that the project will be controversial. The Independent Peer Review provision creates an important tool to ensure that the best projects are designed and implemented.
 - **Principles and Guidelines:** WRDA 2007 also directs the Corps to update its primary guidance document, the Principles and Guidelines ("P&G"). With an updated P&G, the Corps will be able to better capture the needs of modern infrastructure projects including ecosystem needs along with important infrastructure.
 - **Mitigation:** The new mitigation provision will ensure that necessary infrastructure projects are not built at the expense of our natural environment but will include complete, timely, and appropriate mitigation for environmental impacts.

Fact Sheets, Talking Points & Organization Statements:

Summary of WRDA Conference Report, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
[Statement of Chairman James Oberstar from today's Conference Meeting on H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007](#), July 27, 2007

H.R. 986 – EIGHTMILE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ACT (Rep. Courtney- Natural Resources)
(Subject to a Rule)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)
[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee: Closed Rule, [Rule](#), [Committee Report](#), and [roll call votes](#), [Special Announcement](#)

Committee: [Committee on Natural Resources](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-6065

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

- H.R. 986 designates 25.3 miles of the Eightmile River and its tributaries in Connecticut as a national scenic river. The river has been studied by the National Park Service and found to be eligible for designation. The five segments that the bill designates would be managed according to a plan produced pursuant to the 2001 Eightmile River Wild and Scenic River Study Act (Public Law 107-65).
- HR 986 expressly and unambiguously forbids condemnation by the federal government, both by reference to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and by a separate, explicit provision of the bill.
- H.R. 986 is supported by the Administration and has broad bipartisan support, including the entire Connecticut congressional delegation, the Republican governor of the state, the Connecticut Legislature and all of the affected local communities.

House Report 110-220:
[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Full Committee Mark-up:
[Full Committee Markup](#), May 02, 2007

Summary of Committee Votes:

- [Rep. Bishop Private Property Issues Amendment](#) – Would have clarified that no federal funds could be used to condemn private land to carry out the purposes of the Eightmile River bill. **Rejected 9-17: R 9-0; D 0-17.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House by **Voice Vote**.

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Mark-up:
[Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands: Legislative Hearing on H.R. 554, H.R. 986, H.R. 1100, and H.R. 1285](#), April 17, 2007
Opening Statement: [Chairman Raul Grijalva](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- Rep. Bishop Condemnation Prohibition Amendment – Strikes language acknowledging that zoning ordinances adopted by the towns of Salem, East Haddam and Lyme, Conn. satisfy section 6(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and specifies that the secretary of the Interior may not acquire by condemnation any land or interest in land within the boundaries of the Eightmile River.
Adopted, as Amended, by Voice Vote.
 - Grijalva Limit Scope Amendment to the Amendment – Adds a provision providing that the secretary of the Interior's authority to acquire lands is limited to acquisition by donation or acquisition with the consent of the owner and would be subject to the additional criteria set forth in the Eightmile River Watershed Management Plan. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full Committee, as Amended, by **Voice Vote.**

CRS Reports:

(TBA)

CBO Report:

Cost Estimate: Ordered Reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

Organization Statements:

(TBA)

Administration Position:

(TBA)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

HR 986, One Page Summary

Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:

House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands

Legislative Hearing on H.R. 554, H.R. 986, H.R. 1100, and H.R. 1285, April 17, 2007

Other Resources:

Cosponsors of HR 986

Legislative History:

On July 10, 2007, the House considered H.R. 986 under Suspension of the Rules. Although the bill received a clear majority on a vote of 239-173, it failed to receive the 2/3rd necessary for passage.

H. R. 2831 - LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT OF 2007 (Rep. Miller-Education and Labor)
(Subject to a Rule)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee: Closed Rule, [Rule](#), [Committee Report](#), and [roll call votes](#), [Special Announcement](#)

Committee: [Committee on Education and Labor](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-3725

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

H.R. 2831 reverses the Supreme Court's May 29, 2007, ruling in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear*, which dramatically limited workers' ability to challenge discriminatory pay. In that 5-4 decision, the majority, led by Justice Alito, ruled that a victim of pay discrimination under Title VII must file a charge within 180 days of the employer's decision to pay someone less for an unlawfully discriminatory reason (such as race, sex, religion, etc.). Prior to the Supreme Court's ruling, the widely accepted rule in employment discrimination law was that every discriminatory paycheck was a new violation that restarts the 180-day clock. **H.R. 2831 restores that prior law.**

The Implications of the Supreme Court Decision

- **The ruling immunizes discriminatory pay from challenge.** Under the ruling in *Ledbetter*, a person must file a charge of discrimination within 180 days of the discriminatory pay *decision*. If an employee fails to do so, the employer may continue paying the employee in a discriminatory fashion, based on that prior decision, for the rest of his or her career.
- **Discriminatory pay is difficult to discover.** Many employers have policies explicitly forbidding employees from talking to one another about their pay. Workplace norms also discourage employees from asking each other about their pay. Additionally, discriminatory pay tends to have a cumulative effect – what may seem like a minor discrepancy at first builds up over time. By the time the discrimination is noticed, it would be too late to file a charge under the Supreme Court's ruling.
- **The ruling leads to more litigation.** Under the ruling in *Ledbetter*, an employee must file a charge with each pay decision – in order to preserve her rights to challenge discrimination – instead of attempting to ask questions, gathering information, attempting to resolve the matter informally with her employer. The decision leads to more conflict and more litigation and flies in the face of Congress's intent in Title VII to encourage informal conciliation between the employer and employee.

How H.R. 2831 Reverses the Supreme Court Decision

- **H.R. 2831 restores the law prior to the Supreme Court's *Ledbetter* decision.** Under H.R. 2831, the clock for filing a discrimination charge starts when a discriminatory pay decision or practice is adopted, when a person becomes subject to the pay decision or practice, or when a person is affected by the pay decision or practice, including whenever she receives a discriminatory paycheck.

- **H.R. 2831 restores this rule for Title VII, as well as age and disability discrimination.**
- **Ongoing discriminatory pay should never be immunized.** The Supreme Court rolled back workers rights with the *Ledbetter* decision. It is time for Congress to respond.

House Report 110-237:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Full Committee Mark-up:

[Full Committee Mark-up](#), June 27, 2007

[National Journal Report](#)

Opening Statement: [Chairman Miller](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- Rep. Boustany Intentional Discrimination Amendment – Would have replaced all references to "discriminatory" with "intentional discriminatory." **Rejected 18-24: R 18-0; D 0-24.**
- Rep. Keller Define Discriminatory Practices Amendment – Would have struck language referring to "other" forms of discrimination without defining what those forms are. **Rejected 20-25: R 20-0; D 0-25.**
- [Chairman Miller Substitute Amendment](#) – Amends the Civil Rights Act to allow employees to file discrimination charges within 180 days of the last discrimination action. The bill also clarifies that with regard to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, an employee is entitled to up to two years of back pay and renames the bill "Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2007." **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House, as Amended, by a Vote of 25-20: R 0-20; D 25-0. [Roll Call Vote](#).

CRS Reports:

[RS22686](#): Pay Discrimination Claims Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act: A Legal Analysis of the Supreme Court's Decision in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*, Inc.

CBO Report:

[Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the House Committee on Education and Labor

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

Organization Statements:

(TBA)

Administration Position:

The Administration strongly opposes HR 2831. [Administration Statement](#).

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

HR 2831 One Page Summary

[Justice Denied? The Implications of the Supreme Court's Ledbetter v. Goodyear Employment Discrimination Decision](#), Committee Hearing, June 12, 2007

Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:

Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, Fact Sheet, Office of the Speaker

[Ledbetter Fair Pay Act Issue Page](#), Office of the Speaker

[Chairman Miller Statement on Veto Threat of Ledbetter Fair Pay Act](#), July 27, 2007

[House Labor Committee Passes Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act Legislation Would Rectify Flawed Supreme Court Ruling on Pay Discrimination](#), June 27, 2007

[Rep. Miller and Top Democrats Introduce Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act](#)

[Legislation would remedy recent Supreme Court decision to severely limit workers' ability to bring pay discrimination claims](#), June 22, 2007

[Congress Must Act to Rectify Supreme Court Decision on Pay Discrimination, Witnesses Tell Labor Committee If Allowed to Stand, Supreme Court Decision Will Have Broad Harmful Consequences for Workers; House Democrats Plan Legislation](#), June 12, 2007

Other Resources:

[Cosponsors of HR 2831](#)

Legislative History:

No Relevant Legislative History

Background Documents and Links:

[FY2008 Subcommittee Allocations – 302\(b\)s](#), Committee on Appropriations, June 5, 2007

[CRS FY 2008 Status Table of Appropriations](#)

[The Congressional Appropriations Process: An Introduction](#)

H.R. 3159 - ENSURING MILITARY READINESS THROUGH STABILITY AND PREDICTABILITY DEPLOYMENT POLICY ACT OF 2007 *(Rep. Tauscher – Armed Services)*
(Subject to a Rule)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee: [H.RES.601](#), [Rule](#), [Committee Report](#), and [roll call votes](#)

Committee: [Committee on Armed Services](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-4151

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

This week, the House will consider H.R. 3159, Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act. The bill mandates troop rest times equal to their deployment times, similar to an amendment by Senator Jim Webb, D-Va supported by 56 Senators as an amendment to the defense authorization bill. It would require active duty forces to be guaranteed that their time at home match the length of their deployment. National Guard and reservists would be home for three times the length of the deployments. The bill would allow the President to waive these requirements to meet the national security needs of the country, and allow Service Chiefs of Staff to allow for the voluntary mobilization of members. These requirements would apply to those serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The bill also expresses a sense of the Congress that the goal for the time between deployments for regular components should be one year deployed to two years at home station, and the goal for the reserve components should be one year deployed to five years at home station.

- After more than four years of combat operations, we must provide our troops and their families with a more predictable operational tempo with adequate time at home between deployments.
- The bill will enhance national security by increasing the time for troops to train for their war time missions between deployments. When our troops return from their combat deployments, the majority of their time home is spent retraining, refurbishing, and reequipping prior to being re-deployed.
- Military families deserve enough time at home to recover from deployments to combat in Iraq.
- Our military men and women are overburdened, with our military stretched nearly to the breaking point.
 - An estimated 250,000 soldiers in the Army and Marine Corps have served more than one tour in Iraq.
 - Each one of the Army's available active duty combat brigades has served at least a 12-month tour in Iraq or Afghanistan. [Washington Post, 9/14/06]
 - The Defense Secretary announced this spring that all active duty Army soldiers would have their tours in Iraq extended from 12 to 15 months.
 - About 80 percent of the National Guard and Reserves have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, with an average deployment of 18 months. Many stateside units would not be considered ready if called upon to respond during an emergency.

- The consequences of these multiple redeployments are serious.
 - The Army fell short of its active-duty recruiting goal in June for the second consecutive month.
 - Last year, the active army was 3,000 officers short, and that is only projected to increase.
 - Mid-grade sergeants are leaving the military at higher rates and military officials note that it is the lack of time at home that is driving them away. [Christian Science Monitor, 5/2/07]
 - “The detailed mental health survey of troops in Iraq released by the Pentagon ...highlights a growing worry for the United States as it struggles to bring order to Baghdad: the high level of combat stress suffered during lengthy and repeated tours... The military’s report, which drew on that survey as well as interviews with commanders and focus groups, found that longer deployments increased the risk of psychological problems...” [New York Times, 5/6/07]
- Longer and more predictable time home is needed for many reasons. Most importantly, it allows time for members to readjust from combat and renew their bonds with their families.

House Report 110-282:
[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Administration Position:
 (TBA)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:
 Military Readiness, Fact Sheet, Office of the Speaker

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2272 - AMERICA COMPETES ACT *(Rep. Gordon – Science and Technology) (Subject to a Rule)*

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)
[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee: [H.RES. 602](#), [Rule, Committee Report, and roll call votes](#)

Committee: [Committee on Science and Technology](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-6375

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

America's greatest resource for innovation is in classrooms across this country. This legislation will train more of our students in math, science, engineering, and technology, to turn ideas into innovative technologies to boost our economy and create good American jobs. Future innovators must reflect the diversity of our country, and our efforts to train them for the global economy must reflect the needs of the marketplace.

To achieve this goal, this legislation:

- Invests in roughly 25,000 new teachers over the next three years through professional development, summer training institutes, graduate education assistance, and scholarships through NSF's Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program and Math and Science Partnerships Program.
- Ensures more highly qualified teachers in the fields of mathematics, science, engineering, technology, and critical foreign languages through grant programs that provide baccalaureate degrees in these areas with concurrent teacher certification. Also authorizes competitive grants to increase the number of teachers serving high-needs schools and increases the number of qualified Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) teachers.
- Establishes a public-private partnership with the business community to identify 'high needs' fields, and to train mathematicians, scientists and engineers to enter those jobs. Expands access to Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes for students.
- Enhances the ability of states to build more competitive workforces, through P-16+ Councils and other tools, to coordinate education and workforce goals with industry and community leaders, and to identify the challenges of recruiting and retaining students in innovative fields.
- Broadens the participation of minorities and women in science and engineering fields at all levels, from kindergarten students to advanced researchers.

A Sustained Commitment To Research & Development

Independent scientific research provides the foundation for innovation and future technologies. But U.S. federal funding for R&D has declined steadily over the last decade, and sound science has been compromised by political interference. This legislation:

- Invests in basic research and development and puts us on a path to double funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Department of Energy's Office of Science.
- Provides grants for outstanding researches in the early stages of their careers at both NSF and the Department of Energy.
- Coordinates and prioritizes research infrastructure needs at universities and national labs, strengthens planning and coordination for interagency research and development in information technology including deployment of high performance computers for use by the research community, and establishes a Presidential innovation award.

A Declaration Of Energy Independence

America must implement a bold energy strategy to create new high-paying jobs, strengthen our national security, reduce costs for American consumers, and reduce global warming. A skilled 'green' workforce and new clean energy technologies will be the economic engines of the 21st century.

The 110th Congress is passing separate Energy Independence legislation, as well as in this legislation:

- Strengthens our national commitment to energy research and innovation, by creating a new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E), like we already have for the Department of Defense. The agency will help provide talent and resources for high-risk, high-reward energy research and technology development, and help attract investment for the next generation of revolutionary technologies.

A Focus On Small Business Innovation

Small businesses are often the catalysts for technological innovation. The evolution from idea to marketable product, guided by a successful business plan, has led to entrepreneurial successes that have made small businesses star players in our technological revolution. Yet small businesses face significant hurdles, both regulatory and market-based, that limit their efforts to transform ideas into jobs. Removing these hurdles has been a key goal of the Innovation Agenda. This legislation:

- Spurs new manufacturing processes and techniques by putting funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) on a path to doubling over 10 years. The partnership also leverages federal, state, and private dollars.
- Supports high-risk, high-reward, pre-competitive technology development, with high potential for public benefit, with a new initiative, the Technology Innovation Program (TIP), to focus on small and medium-sized companies.

Conference Report 110-289:

HTML Version, [PDF Version](#)

Administration Position:

(TBA)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

Innovation Conference Report, Fact Sheet, Office of the Speaker

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 President	FY 2008 Allocation	<u>Compared to FY 2007</u>	
				Dollar	Percent
Military Construction, Veterans	49,752	60,745	64,745	14,993	30.1%
Homeland Security	31,905	34,191	36,254	4,349	13.6%
State, Foreign Operations	31,277	34,943	34,243	2,966	9.5%
Defense	419,612	462,879	459,332	39,720	9.5%
Total Security Funding	532,546	592,758	594,574	62,028	11.6%
Financial Services & Gen Gov't	19,518	21,678	21,028	1,510	7.7%
Transportation, HUD	47,538	47,963	50,738	3,200	6.7%
Legislative Branch	3,773	4,331	4,024	251	6.7%
Commerce, Justice, Science	50,344	51,241	53,551	3,206	6.4%
Agriculture	17,774	17,835	18,825	1,051	5.9%
Labor, HHS, Education	144,522	140,920	151,112	6,590	4.6%
Interior, Environment	26,405	25,650	27,598	1,193	4.5%
Energy & Water	30,298	30,473	31,603	1,305	4.3%
Total Non-Security Domestic Funding	340,172	340,091	358,478	18,306	5.4%
Total Discretionary Spending	872,718	932,849	953,053	80,334	9.2%

**H.R. 3161 - AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008** *(Rep. DeLauro – Appropriations)*
(Subject to a Rule)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee: Structured rule, [Further Consideration of the Rule](#), [Rule, Committee Report, and roll call votes](#), [Special Announcement](#)

Committee: [Committee on Appropriations](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-2771

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

Bill Total

2007 Enacted: \$17.812 billion

President's request: \$17.830 billion

Committee Mark: \$18.817 billion

KEY INVESTMENTS

Reinvesting in Rural America

Rural Housing Loans: \$212.2 million, \$176.3 million above the President's request, to fund \$5.1 billion in affordable loans to provide housing to low-income families in rural areas, with no increase in fees. The President's budget had eliminated direct loans and shifted funding to guaranteed loans, increasing fees, making these loans more expensive and less accessible for low-income families. This will provide approximately 38,000 single family homeownership opportunities.

Homeownership for Rural Families: \$40 million, \$6.3 million above 2007 and \$30.5 million above the President's request, for grants to allow low-income families in rural areas to build their own houses. The ultimate goal is to double the number of participant families, from the 2002 level by 2010.

Housing for Farm Laborers: \$46.6 million, \$14.5 million above 2007 and \$36.8 million above the President's request, to fund \$75 million in affordable loans and grants for housing for farm laborers, nearly doubling the 2007 target of financing or constructing approximately 2000 units.

Rural Community Advancement Programs: \$728.8 million, \$158.3 million above the President's request, to support:

- **Community Facilities:** \$55.7 million, \$31.2 million above the President's request, for grants and loans to rural areas for critical community facilities, such as health care, educational, public safety and day care facilities.
- **Clean Water:** \$573.1 million, \$70.3 million above the President's request and \$18.1 million above 2007, for loans and grants for water and waste disposal systems, supporting \$1 billion in loans. In 2006, 985 applicants needing \$2.3 billion had their grant requests turned down.
- **Business Loans and Grants:** \$100 million, \$56.8 million above the President's request and \$15.6 million above 2007, for economic development in rural communities.

Technology Access: \$52.8 million, \$14.2 million above 2007 and \$28 million above the President's request, for grants for distance learning, telemedicine, and broadband development in rural areas. This increase provides funding to double the broadband grant program and a 41 percent increase in distance learning and telemedicine grants to assist rural schools, learning centers, and rural communities in gaining access to improved educational resources, and assist hospitals and health care centers in gaining access to improved medical resources.

Protecting Public Health

Food Safety and Inspection Service: \$930.1 million, \$38 million above 2007 and matching the President's request, addressing vacancies in federal meat inspector positions.

Food and Drug Administration: \$1.69 billion, \$128.5 million above 2007 and \$62 million above the President's request, including increases to begin a transformation of food safety regulation, improve drug safety, monitor prescription drug advertisements and review generic drug applications.

Improving Nutrition

Commodity Supplemental Food Program: \$150 million, \$43 million above 2007 and eliminated in the President's request, for food aid for women, infants, children, and the elderly. In 2007, program participation averaged 485,614 monthly. This amount would allow five new states to participate in the program and expand participation in existing states.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): \$5.6 billion, \$415.6 million above 2007 and \$233.4 million above the President's request, including \$145 million to restore the President's proposed cuts to grants that help states administer the program. 8.38 million Americans are expected to participate in the program next year.

Nutrition: \$957.7 million, \$45.5 million above 2007 and \$69.7 million over the President's request, for nutrition programs, including the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (\$68.5 million), Fresh Fruit and Vegetable and Simplified Summer Food programs (\$26 million) to all states to provide nutritious foods to children in low-income families, and specialty crop grants to encourage more fruit and vegetable consumption (\$10 million).

Transforming our Energy Future

Renewable Energy: \$1.2 billion, \$955.3 million above 2007 and \$810.4 million above the President's request, for bio-energy and renewable energy research and development, including loans and grants in rural areas.

- **Wind Energy:** \$500 million is included in the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program for new wind energy projects.
- **Business and Industry Loans:** \$350 million is targeted for biomass and renewable energy projects funded through the Guaranteed Business and Industry loan program.

Supporting Conservation

Conservation Programs: \$979.4 million, \$127.6 million above 2007 and \$154.7 million above the President's request, for conservation efforts and community development. This bill restores many of the programs slated for major reductions in the president's request, including the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Resource Conservation and Development, and the watershed programs which are funded \$75 million – more than double last year's levels.

Investing in Research

Animal and Plant Health: \$874.6 million, \$28.4 million above 2007 and \$70.9 million below the President's request, to fund programs that protect American agriculture against animal and plant diseases, such as avian influenza.

Oversight and Enforcement

Crop Insurance Integrity: \$11.2 million, \$5.4 million above 2007 and matching the President's request, for a system to detect potential waste, fraud and abuse in crop insurance and farm loan programs, and an additional \$1 million for Inspector General oversight in this area.

Ensuring Livestock Competition: \$22.8 million, \$2 million above 2007 and matching the President's request, to enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act to assure fair competition and fair trade practices, safeguard farmers and ranchers, protect consumers and protect members of the livestock, meat, and poultry industries from unfair, deceptive, unjustly discriminatory and monopolistic practices. These funds provide for new agents and other professionals to strengthen enforcement and promote voluntary compliance.

Enforcement Efforts at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission: \$102.6 million, \$4.6 million above 2007 for additional staff to enforce the agencies regulations.

IMPORTANT POLICY ITEMS

Animal Identification: Does not provide new funding for the program because USDA cannot justify money already appropriated. Drastic action is required as this program is far too important to be allowed to continue to flounder. The agency is directed to develop a detailed plan with measurable goals.

Conflicts of Interest on FDA Advisory Committees: Bars FDA from granting waivers for conflicts of interest rules to voting members of FDA advisory committees.

Food Stamp Benefits: Excludes special pay for military personnel deployed to designated combat areas when determining food stamp eligibility. The Food Stamp Program is provided at \$39.8 billion, an increase of \$1.7 billion over 2007 to meet increased participation. Rejects the Administration's proposal to restrict eligibility for food stamps by excluding needy families who are receiving certain other services.

Imported Poultry Products from China: Prohibits USDA from establishing or implementing a rule allowing poultry products from China into the U.S.

Country of Origin Labeling: Sets a timeline for USDA to implement country of origin labeling.

Committee Document:

[Summary: FY 2008 Agriculture Bill - Full Committee](#)

SUMMARY AND TEXT OF AMENDMENTS TO BE MADE IN ORDER:

[Sessions.](#) Strikes language from the bill prohibiting use of funds by the USDA Chief Financial Officer for “competitive sourcing” activities until the Secretary of Agriculture submits a report on the Department’s contracting out policies and budget. (10 minutes)

[Price \(GA\).](#) Reduces funds provided in the bill for the Agricultural Research Service by \$54,823,000. (10 minutes)

[Hensarling.](#) Reduces funds provided in the bill for rural community facilities programs by \$6,287,000. (10 minutes)

[Hensarling.](#) Reduces funds provided in the bill for grants to finance broadband transmission in rural areas by \$8,910,000. (10 minutes)

[Kingston.](#) Strikes provision from the bill (section 726) relating to importation of prescription drugs. (10 minutes)

[Kingston.](#) Adds language prohibiting use of funds to apply labor standards under the Davis-Bacon Act to contracts for construction of renewable energy systems. (10 minutes)

[Jordan.](#) Reduces all discretionary appropriations in the bill by 5.5 percent. (10 minutes)

[Flake.](#) Prohibits use of funds for an earmark contained in the committee report for the Catfish Pathogen Genomic Project in Auburn , AL. 10 (10 minutes)

[Flake.](#) Prohibits use of funds for an earmark contained in the committee report for grape genetics research in Geneva, NY . (10 minutes)

[Flake.](#) Prohibits use of funds for an earmark contained in the committee report for the Alternative Uses of Tobacco (MD) grant. (10 minutes)

[Flake.](#) Prohibits use of funds for an earmark contained in the committee report for the Ruminant Nutrition Consortium (MT, ND, SD, WY) grant. (10 minutes)

[Flake.](#) Prohibits use of funds for an earmark contained in the committee report for the Wood Utilization (OR, MS, NC, MN, ME, MI, ID, TN, AK, WV) grant. (10 minutes)

House Report 110-258:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Full Committee Mark-up:

FY 2008 Agriculture Bill - Full Committee, July 19, 2007

[National Journal Report](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- Chairman DeLauro Manager's Amendment – Makes various changes to the bill. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- Rep. Kingston Across-the-Board Reduction Amendment – Would have reduced the amount appropriated in the bill by 3.99 percent across the board. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- Rep. Bishop Peanut Storage Amendment – Would have restored peanut storage programs under the USDA. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Kingston Farm Agency Offices Amendment – Clarifies that none of the funds in the bill may be used to pay the salary of any officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture to close or relocate any county or field office of the Farm Agency unless the county or field office had zero employees as of Feb. 7, 2007. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- Rep. LaHood Country of Origin Labeling Amendment – Would have delayed implementation of a country-of-origin food labeling requirement to Sept. 30, 2009, instead of Sept. 30, 2008. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Roybal-Allard Food Safety Amendment – Adds language in the report accompanying the bill to encourage the FDA to consider establishing a formal process for tracking status inquiries on ethnic food imports. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- Rep. Frelinghuysen Drug Importation Amendment – Would have stated that no funds appropriated in the bill could be used to prevent an individual from importing a prescription drug from Canada as long as the drug complies with the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- Rep. Cramer Drought Assistance Amendment – Would have provided \$5 million to the Emergency Conservation Program and \$5 million to the Livestock Assistance Program to assist producers for losses suffered in 2007 due to drought. The funds would have been offset by a \$10 million rescission. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Hinchey Royal Teton Ranch Amendment – Would have added language to the report to express concern that a promised agreement for the government to purchase the grazing rights from the Royal Teton Ranch was never fulfilled. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- Rep. Wamp Sugarcane Growers Amendment – Would have stated that none of the money appropriated in the bill could be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel of the Department of Agriculture who make loans available to processors of domestically grown sugarcane or sugar beets. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Rothman Report on Anti-Meth Effort Amendment – Requires the FDA to submit a report to the committee on the implementation of the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 within 90 days of enactment. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

- Rep. Kingston Social Security Identification Amendment – Prohibits any of the funds made available in the bill from being used to enter into a contract with an entity that does not participate in the basic pilot program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Responsibility Act of 1996. The pilot program is a voluntary program that employers can use to verify whether potential or current employees can legally work in the United States through an automated system that checks Social Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security databases. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Reported favorably to the full House, as Amended, by **Voice Vote.**

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Mark-up:

[Subcommittee Markup](#), June 12, 007

Opening Statement: [Chairman DeLauro](#)
[National Journal Report](#)

Summary of Committee Vote:

- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full Committee by **Voice Vote.**

CRS Reports:

[RS22621](#): The FY2008 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Agriculture

[RS21212](#): Agricultural Disaster Assistance

[RL33412](#): Agriculture and Related Agencies: FY2007 Appropriations

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

Organization Statements:

(TBA)

Administration Position:

The Administration opposes H.R. 3161. [Statement of Administration Policy.](#)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

(TBA)

Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:

[Agriculture Department budget site](#), [Budget Summary](#)

[Farm Credit Administration](#), [Commodity Futures Trading Commission Proposal](#)

[Food and Drug Administration Budget Site](#)

H.R. 3222- FY08 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT (Rep. Murtha – Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule)

Bill Text:[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Bill Summary and Status

Rules Committee Meeting: Open rule, [H.RES.596](#), [Rule](#), [Committee Report](#), and [roll call votes](#), [Special Announcement](#)

Committee: [Committee on Appropriations](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-2771

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

Bill Total

2007 Enacted: \$419.871 billion

President's Request: \$463.143 billion

Committee Mark: \$459.594 billion

KEY INVESTMENTS

Keeping Our Commitments to Our Troops and Their Families

Addressing Guard and Reserve Equipment Shortfalls: \$925 million, \$635 million above 2007, specifically to address equipment shortfalls in order to help forces meet the demands of overseas deployments and respond to natural disasters here at home. This amount meets the requirements identified by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau in the "Essential 10 Equipment Requirements for the Global War on Terror."

Supporting Military Families: \$2.9 billion, \$558.4 million above the President's request, for programs including childcare centers, education programs and the family advocacy program which provides support to military families affected by the demands of war and episodes of child or spouse abuse.

Defense Health: \$22.957 billion, \$1.7 billion above 2007 and \$416 million above the President's request, rejecting the President's proposal to inflict \$1.9 billion in TRICARE fee and premium increases on our troops. Invests in improving the Department's electronic medical records and fostering better coordination between DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs, enhancing preventative medicine programs and military medical research.

Military Pay Raise: \$2.2 billion is provided to cover the cost of a 3.5% military pay raise, as approved in the House version of the Defense Authorization bill.

Army Facilities: \$1.252 billion above the President's request to repair barracks, improve child care facilities, and improve community services, to address the strain put on facilities by changes in force structure, base closures, and a global repositioning of forces all while meeting the demands of war.

Base Security: \$268.1 million, \$141.9 million above the President's request, for perimeter security force protection and related security improvements, to protect DoD bases, schools, hospitals, base housing, churches and childcare centers from terrorist attacks.

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH): \$15 billion, \$1.6 billion above 2007, to ensure there are no out-of-pocket expenses for service personnel and support the privatization of housing for military families.

Prepares Our Forces to Meet Future Needs

Training: \$7.548 billion, a 13% increase for all home-stationing training, so that our troops are well prepared for any eventual deployment.

Growing the Force: Supports DoD's plans to increase the size of the Army and Marine Corps in order to reduce the pressure to extend troop deployments.

- **Army:** \$4 billion to cover the equipment costs of adding 7,000 new members.
- **Marine Corps:** \$2 billion to cover costs of adding 5,000 new members.

Research, Development, Test and Evaluation: \$76.229 billion, \$1.112 billion above the President's request and \$508 million above 2007. These funds are used for basic research, advanced research on and development of weapons systems, and military medical research.

- **Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle:** \$288 million, the President's request for vehicles to transport Marines from ship to shore.
- **F-35 Lightning Joint Strike Fighter:** \$4.146 billion to continue development of the aircraft, \$705 million above the President's request.

Procurement: \$99.6 billion, \$18.7 billion or 23% above 2007, the largest increase in the bill including:

- **Stryker Vehicles:** \$1.912 billion including \$1.1 billion to outfit a new eighth Stryker Brigade to support the Army's evolution to a larger, more rapidly deployable force.
- **Navy Shipbuilding:** \$15.304 billion, \$1.647 billion above the President's request to procure 5 additional Navy ships including 2 LPD-17 Amphibious Transport Docs, 1 SSN-774 Attack Submarine, advanced procurement for another attack submarine, and 1 CBN – 78 Aircraft Carrier and 1 Littoral Combat Ship as well as to continue funding 2 DDG-1000 Guided Missile Destroyers, and 1 LHA-6 Amphibious Assault Ship. These investments will ensure the stability of our country's shipbuilding industry and maintain our superiority at sea.
- **F-35 Lightning II Aircraft:** \$2.410 billion for 12 F-35s – 6 Air Force and 6 Marine Corps.
- **Blackhawk Helicopters:** \$770.8 million, the President's request, for 52 Helicopters
- **V-22 Aircraft:** \$2.213 billion for 26 V-22s including 21 MV-22s for the Marine Corps and 5 CV-22s for the Air Force.
- **National Defense Sealift Fund:** \$1.866 billion, \$1.41 billion above the President's request for 4 T-AKE Auxiliary Dry Cargo/Ammunition Ships.

- **F-22s:** \$3.153 billion for 20 F-22 Raptor aircraft.
- **Chemical and Biological Defense Programs:** \$558.3 million, \$41.3 million above 2007 and \$9.5 million above the President's request.

SIGNIFICANT CUTS

Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter: Funding for production is zeroed out because they are not ready to go into production. Research and development will continue.

Missile Defense: \$8.498 billion, \$883.4 million below 2007 and \$298 million below the President's request, as the President's plan included unrealistic missile deployment schedules.

Future Combat System: \$3.157 billion, \$406 million below the President's request, as the request was in excess of what was needed to keep the program on a reasonable development schedule.

OTHER IMPORTANT POLICY ITEMS

Improving Oversight of Contractors: From 2000 to 2005, the cost of O&M service contracts increased by more than 73%, but oversight has actually decreased. This bill works to turn things around through:

- **Funding:** Increases are made in key oversight areas including: the Defense Contract Audit Agency (+\$12 million), the Defense Contract Management Agency (+\$17 million) and the Department of Defense Inspector General (+\$24 million). The bill also provides \$21 million to temporarily assign 600 contract specialists from the General Services Administration to help DoD oversee contracts. Funding for contracted services is reduced by 5% across the military services in anticipation of savings from improved management and oversight.
- **Contracting Security Positions:** Requires the Secretary of Defense to develop minimum standards for all contractors performing security functions and to establish a clear set of rules of engagement for those operating in Iraq and Afghanistan, within 90 days of the bill's enactment.
- **Improving Acquisition Workforce:** Requires a report that identifies: 1) acquisition workforce needs; and 2) tools to recruit and retain these personnel in order to provide adequate management of contracts and oversight of contract performance. The report is due within 90 days of enactment.
- **Restrictions:** Includes two provisions regarding contracting out: 1) restricts payment of award fees to contractors who fail to meet contractual requirements and 2) fences 10% of all O&M funds appropriated in the bill until the Pentagon submits a report on contracting out required in the FY 2007 Iraq supplemental.

Fiscal Discipline

- **Transfers:** Prohibits Department of Defense procedures that resulted in significant funding transfers without Congressional Approval.

- **Reprogramming News Starts:** Prohibits the Pentagon's initiating new programs through reprogramming.

No Permanent Bases In Iraq: Continues to prohibit the establishment of permanent bases.

Torture: Continues to carry a provision prohibiting torture.

Committee Documents:

[Summary: FY 2008 Defense Appropriations Bill - Full Committee](#)

House Report 110-279:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Full Committee Mark-up:

[FY 2008 Defense Appropriations Bill - Full Committee](#), July 25, 2007
[National Journal Report](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- [Chairman Murtha Manager's Amendment](#) – Makes various changes to the bill.
Adopted by Voice Vote.
- **Vote to Report:** Reported favorably to the full House, as Amended, by Voice Vote.

Subcommittee on Defense Mark-up:

[Subcommittee Markup](#), June 12, 2007
[National Journal Report](#)

Summary of Committee Vote:

- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full Committee by **Voice Vote**.

CRS Reports:

[CRS Report RL33999](#), Defense: FY2008 Authorization and Appropriations

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

Organization Statements:

(TBA)

Administration Position:

(TBA)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

[Murtha Summary of the Defense Appropriations Bill](#), July 25, 2007

Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:

[Defense Department Budget Site](#)

Service Budget Materials: [Army](#), [Navy](#), [Air Force](#), [Defensewide](#)

H.R. 3162 - CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT *(Subject to a Rule)*

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)
[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: TBA

Committee: [Committee on Energy and Commerce](#), [Committee on Ways and Means](#)

Committee Staff Contact: Energy and Commerce 5-2927; Ways and Means 5-3625

****NOTE: THIS TEXT IS NOT FINAL****

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

PROTECTING CHILDREN'S HEALTH: The CHAMP Act improves and extends the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) which would otherwise expire on September 30, 2007. CHIP currently provides health insurance to 6 million children and is a federal-state partnership. Without changing the current parameters for income eligibility for CHIP, the CHAMP Act extends coverage to another 5 million children – so that 11 million children will be covered under the program.

This growth in enrollment is possible because the CHAMP Act revises the payment formula for states and dramatically improves outreach and enrollment via new incentive payments to states and streamlined eligibility for children.

The CHAMP Act improves the benefits available to children by assuring coverage of dental care and mental health parity.

The CHAMP Act grants states the option of covering pregnant women and increasing CHIP eligibility to age 21 to match Medicaid's age limit. It also permits states to cover legal immigrant children and legal immigrant pregnant women, who otherwise meet the requirements for coverage under CHIP. States are given a new option to cover family planning services without a waiver.

MEDICARE BENEFICIARY IMPROVEMENTS: The CHAMP Act improves preventive health coverage by providing Medicare with the authority to add new preventive health benefits without Congressional approval. It also eliminates co-insurance and waives deductibles for all preventive benefits. It reduces Medicare's discriminatory 50% co-payment on outpatient mental health services to the standard 20% and adds additional mental health providers to Medicare so that services are more widely available. It also requires important new steps to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities.

The CHAMP Act significantly improves programs that assist low-income beneficiaries by expanding and improving the Low Income Subsidy (LIS) program for drugs and the Medicare Savings Programs (MSP). These programs pay beneficiary premiums, lower co-payments, and reduce drug costs.

All beneficiaries win better consumer protections under the CHAMP Act. For example, it allows beneficiaries to change drug plans if they are adversely affected by a drug plan formulary changes during the year and codifies the requirement that Part D plans cover all or substantially all drugs in six important therapeutic classes of drugs.

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM: The CHAMP Act stabilizes physician reimbursement by eliminating the impending 2008 and 2009 fee cuts (projected to be -10.0 percent and -5.0 percent, respectively) and puts in place a positive 0.5 percent update in both 2008 and 2009. The bill also lays the foundation for a future physician reimbursement system that promotes quality of care and maximizes efficiency.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE REFORM: The CHAMP Act phases out MA overpayments over four years to 100% of FFS in 2011. This change extends Medicare solvency by three years and restores equity in Medicare premiums for all beneficiaries.

It improves consumer protections by developing a Federal/State system to regulate private plan marketing and other activities. It prohibits private plans from charging higher cost-sharing than fee-for-service Medicare. It requires plans to meet minimum requirements regarding level of spending on medical benefits (versus administrative costs, overhead or profit).

It extends the Special Needs Plans (SNPS) that were set to expire next year for another three years and puts increased consumer protection standards in place for these plans to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the special populations they are designed to protect.

RURAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENTS: The CHAMP Act preserves payment equity for rural Medicare fee-for-service providers. The bill extends otherwise expiring provisions in law that, if left unchanged, would negatively affect rural beneficiaries' access to physicians, hospitals, home health, ambulance services, and lab services.

MEDICARE PROVIDER PAYMENTS AND ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS: The CHAMP Act takes into account recommendations from the non-partisan Medicare Payment Advisory Commission and refines payments for a variety of institutional providers including skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, rehabilitation facilities, long-term care hospitals, cancer hospitals and rural and small urban hospitals.

It updates Medicare coverage policy for a range of providers. Improvements include: continuing the therapy cap exceptions process and planning for an improved payment system; improving coverage for speech language pathologists, nurse midwives, marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors; and assuring access to clinical social workers for beneficiaries in nursing homes. Ends the ability of physicians to refer to hospitals in which they have ownership. Reduces rental period for oxygen equipment, and eliminates first month purchase of wheelchairs. Provides patient-education services for pre-dialysis beneficiaries, puts quality programs in place, and modernizes the ESRD payment system.

The CHAMP Act establishes a comparative effectiveness program to provide the information doctors and patients need to choose the best treatments, leading to better health outcomes and value nationwide. It requires the Medicare agency to design a program to require adoption of an interoperable open source health information technology system for all Medicare providers.

Importantly, the CHAMP Act overrides provisions that have been inserted into the law in recent years that are designed to privatize Medicare – or turn it into a voucher. In contrast, the CHAMP Act protects Medicare as a guaranteed benefit for today's and tomorrow's senior citizens and people with disabilities.

FINANCING: The bulk of the CHAMP Act is financed through adjusting current federal health spending. The only other funding source in this bill is increasing the current federal excise tax on cigarettes by \$.45 a pack – significantly less than the \$.61 a pack proposal in the Senate. The tobacco tax is sound fiscal and health policy. Raising the cost of cigarettes is the best way to stop children from starting to smoke in the first place. It will save a million kids from addiction, saving billions in health care dollars and tens of thousands of young lives.

House Report:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Energy and Commerce Mark-up:

[House Energy and Commerce Committee Markup](#), July 26-27, 2007

[National Journal Report, July 27](#)

[National Journal Report, July 26](#)

Opening Statement: [Chairman Dingell](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the House of Representatives, as Amended, by **Voice Vote**.
- [Rep. Barton Postponement Motion](#) – Would have postponed consideration of HR 3162 until 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2007. **Rejected 23-29: R 23-1; D 0-28.**
- [Rep. Pallone First Bill Reading Motion](#) – Dispensed with the first reading of the bill. **Agreed to 31-13: R 0-13; D 31-0.**

Ways and Means Mark-up:

[Markup of H.R. 3162, the "Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007"](#), June 26, 2007

[National Journal Report](#)

Opening Statement: [Chairman Rangel](#)

Summary of Committee Vote:

- [Rep. Stark Outpatient Co-insurance Amendment](#) – Lowers the outpatient mental health co-insurance to 20 percent in 2008 and for subsequent years. Clarifies that the secretary of Health and Human Services could use no more than 40 percent of the recouped overpayments to compensate intermediaries or Medicare administrative contractors for services performed for long-term-care hospital medical necessity reviews. Specifies that a hospital for which the hospital's predecessor provider was University Hospitals of Cleveland (among other requirements) would be a PPS-exempt cancer hospital. Makes clarifications pertaining to treatment of Medicare hospital redesignations; the area designated as Hartford, Conn. would include New York's Albany, Schenectady and Rensselaer Counties. Directs the secretary of Health and Human Services to provide for the transfer from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund \$40 million to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Program Management Account for fiscal 2008. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

- Rep. Herger Practicing Physicians Advisory Council Amendment – Would have struck section 310 from the bill, which would repeal the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Camp Out-of-State Retirees Amendment – Would have repealed a provision in the bill that would prevent employer Medicare Advantage plans from enrolling retirees who have moved out of state. **Rejected 17-21: R 17-0; D 0-21.**
- Rep. Schwartz Health Information Technology Amendment – Provides financial incentives to physicians who voluntarily use Medicare e-prescribing. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Ramstad Chronic Care Special Needs Plans Amendment – Would have treated Chronic Care Special Needs Plans equal to other Special Needs Plans under the bill. The Chronic Care Special Needs Plans would have been extended through 2011; 90 percent of enrollees would be required to have a chronic condition. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- Rep. Johnson Physician Ownership Amendment – Would have struck language restricting existing and non-existing physician-owned hospitals from expanding or being built. It would have struck language that would provide regulatory restrictions on specialty hospitals. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Meek Oxygen Equipment Amendment – Would have deleted a provision in the bill to reduce the time for the rental of oxygen equipment. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. English Rural Medicare Advantage Amendment – Would have given the secretary of Health and Human Services the authority to adjust individual county benchmarks to ensure at least one Medicare Advantage plan is serving each county. **Rejected 14-21: R 14-0; D 0-21.**
- Rep. Weller Home Health Agency Amendment – Would have eliminated a provision in the bill that would cut home health agency payments by \$2.6 billion. **Rejected 14-23: R 14-0; D 0-23.**
- Rep. Hulsh Waiver of Waiting Period Amendment – Would have provided a waiver of the 24-month waiting period for Medicare coverage of disabled people with terminal illnesses. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Lewis Eliminates Tobacco Tax Increase Amendment – Would have struck Title R, section 1001 of the bill, which would increase taxes on tobacco by more than \$54 billion. **Rejected 16-23: R 16-1; D 0-22.**
- Rep. Brady Market Basket Payment Amendment – Would have struck section 501 of the bill, which would reduce the Medicare market basket payment to inpatient hospitals by .25 percent. **Rejected 16-24: R 16-0; D 0-24.**
- Rep. Reynolds Ambulance Providers Amendment – Would have implemented a 5 percent increase to the rates under the Medicare ambulance fee schedule for 2008 and 2009. **Rejected 17-23: R 17-0; D 0-23.**
- Rep. Nunes Localities in California Amendment – Would have required that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services revisions to payment localities in California in section 308 of the bill shall be funded with new money, and not by reductions in other localities. **Withdrawn.**

- Rep. Tiberi Prohibit Medicare Advantage Cuts Amendment – Would have prevented Medicare Advantage cuts to plans whose enrollment consists of at least 50 percent minority beneficiaries or 50 percent beneficiaries who earn less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level. **Rejected 17-24: R 17-0; D 0-24.**
- Rep. Porter Medicare Reimbursement Amendment – Would have added a section to the bill that would increase caps for Medicare reimbursement for Graduate Medical Education slots. It would add one quarter of the slots needed to bring a state to the national median of residents-in-training per 100,000. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Kind Imaging Services Amendment – Would have struck the "imaging services" category in section 301 and would assign services that fall under the category to the remaining five categories, based on the specialty of the physician ordering the image service or diagnostic test. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Kind Critical Access Hospitals Amendment – Would have created a title to require Medicare Advantage plans to pay critical access hospitals rates equivalent to those they receive under Medicare fee-for-service for inpatient, swing-bed or outpatient hospital services. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Camp Dialysis Amendment – Would have provided a two-year market basket update for dialysis centers. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Johnson Competitive Bidding En Block Amendments – Would have required the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to conduct a competitive bidding cycle to set prices within all Medical Savings Accounts (MSA). **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- Rep. English Skilled Nursing Facilities Amendment – Would have eliminated a provision that would cut skilled nursing facility (SNF) payments by \$2.7 billion by granting SNFs their market basket update as provided under current law. **Rejected 17-22: R 17-0; D 0-22.**
- Rep. Weller Puerto Rico Amendment – Would have ensured that residents in Puerto Rico have automatic enrollment in Medicare Part B. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Brady Immune Deficiency Amendment – Would have directed the secretary of Health and Human Services to review available data and update the Medicare payment to provide appropriate reimbursement for the furnishing of intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) by physicians and hospitals. It would have made permanent the pre-administration-related services payment for IVIG established by the Final Physician Fee Schedule issued by CMS on Nov. 1, 2006. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Ryan Comparative Cost Adjustment Program Amendment – Would have struck section 903 of the bill, which would repeal the comparative cost adjustment program. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- Rep. Nunes Power Wheelchairs Amendment – Would have struck Section 608 of the bill dealing with the purchase of power-driven wheelchairs. **Rejected 17-24: R 17-0; D 0-24.**

- [Rep. Porter Imaging Services Criteria Amendment](#) – Would have established a demonstration that encourages providers to develop appropriateness criteria when ordering imaging services. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. English Part B Premium Amendment](#) – Would have prevented an increase in the beneficiary Part B premium due to any increase in Part B spending in the bill. **Rejected 15-26: R 15-2; D 0-24.**
- [Rep. Tiberi Low-Income Subsidy Amendment](#) – Would have struck the provision allowing for Self certification of income and resources. **Rejected 17-24: R 17-0; D 0-24.**
- [Chairman Rangel Substitute Amendment](#) – [Description of Chairman's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute.](#) **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House, as Amended, by a Vote of by 24-17: R 0-17; D 24-0.

CRS Reports:

[CRS Report RS22681](#), The Cigarette Tax Increase to Finance SCHIP

[CRS Report RL33866](#), Medicaid, SCHIP, and Health Insurance: FY2008 Budget Issues

GAO Reports:

[GAO-07-876R](#): Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System for Long-Term Care Hospitals RY 2008: Annual Payment Rate Updates, and Policy Changes; and Hospital Direct and Indirect Graduate Medical Education Policy Changes

[GAO-07-558T](#): Children's Health Insurance: States' SCHIP Enrollment and Spending Experiences and Considerations for Reauthorization, March 1, 2007

[GAO-07-876R](#): Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System for Long-Term Care Hospitals RY 2008: Annual Payment Rate Updates, and Policy Changes; and Hospital Direct and Indirect Graduate Medical Education Policy Changes, May 25, 2007

Organization Statements:

[Support Letters and Statements](#), *Committee on Ways and Means*

[Support Letters and Statements](#), *Committee on Energy and Commerce*

[Letters of Support from Outside Groups](#)

[Organizations Supporting the CHAMP Act](#)

[Organizations on Record as "Champs" for Children and Seniors](#)

[Editorial Boards Support the CHAMP Act](#)

[Columnists Support the CHAMP Act](#)

Administration Position:

The Administration opposes H.R. 3162. [Statement of Administration Policy.](#)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

[Energy and Commerce Web-Site on the CHAMP Act](#)

[Ways and Means Web-Site on the CHAMP Act](#)

Ways and Means Truth Squad:

- [Rural Health Care](#)
- [The Tobacco Tax](#)

- [Medicare Advantage](#)
- [Minorities and Medicare](#)
- [Anemia Management Care](#)
- [Physician Payments](#)
- [Beneficiary Improvements](#)

[Speaker's Office: Summary of Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act
SCHIP Clearinghouse](#), Office of the Majority Leader
[Emanuel Statement on President's Threat to Veto Health Care for Children
Energy and Commerce Web-Site on the CHAMP Act](#)
[Ways and Means Web-Site on the CHAMP Act](#)

CHAMP Act Talking Points, Office of the Speaker

Beneficiary Improvements (CHAMP One-Pager), Office of the Speaker

Physician Payments (CHAMP One-Pager), Office of the Speaker

Private Plan Overpayments (CHAMP One-Pager), Office of the Speaker

Rural Health Care Policy (CHAMP One-Pager), Office of the Speaker

Tobacco Tax (CHAMP One-Pager), Office of the Speaker

ESRD Policy (CHAMP One-Pager), Office of the Speaker

CHAMP ACT Short Summary

[Summary of H.R. 3162](#)

[Section by Section Analysis](#)

[CHAMP Act Reduces Minority Health Disparities](#), Fact Sheet

[CHAMP Act Brings Healthcare to Underserved Communities](#), Fact Sheet

[Funded Incentives to Reach All Eligible Children](#), Fact Sheet

[Joint Tax Description of Title X of H.R. 3162](#), the "Children's Health and Medicare
Protection Act of 2007"

[Joint Tax Estimated Revenue Effects of H.R. 3162](#), the "Children's Health and Medicare
Protection Act of 2007"

Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:

[Members Are Talking ... About the CHAMP Act](#), July 27, 2007

[Republicans Refuse to Participate in Committee Markup Minority Members Attempt to
Block Healthcare for Needy Kids, Seniors](#), Energy and Commerce, July 27, 2007

[Democrats Approve Legislation to provide Health Care to Millions of Children and
Strengthen Medicare for the Future](#), Ways and Means, July 27, 2007

[Expanding Health Care for Children saves lives, money and creates a more competitive
America](#), Ways and Means, July 26, 2007

To listen to Democratic leaders talking about the CHAMP Act, [click here](#)

ENERGY LEGISLATION

On Friday, August 3rd. the House will consider the **New Direction for Energy
Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 3221)** and the
Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007 (H.R. 2776).

This summer, the New Direction Congress continues an ambitious legislative agenda to lead us on a path to energy independence, strengthen national security, grow our economy and create new jobs, lower energy prices, and begin to address global warming. We will do so by investing in the future. Specifically, we will invest in new energy technologies and innovation to create new jobs; improve energy efficiency for a wide range of products, lighting and buildings to reduce energy costs to consumers; make the federal government a leader in reducing energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions; and strengthen research and diplomatic efforts on climate change to protect our planet.

H.R. 2776 - RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT OF 2007 (*Rep Rangel-Ways and Means*) (*Subject to a Rule*)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)
[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: [Summary and Text of Amendments Submitted](#), [Special Announcement](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-3625

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

Earlier this year, Congress made a promise when it passed H.R. 6, the CLEAN Energy Act of 2007, to use funds raised from repealing tax breaks for the oil and gas industry for the following purposes: (1) to accelerate the use of clean domestic renewable energy sources and alternative fuels, (2) to promote the use of energy-efficient products, practices and conservation and (3) to increase research, development and deployment of clean renewable energy and efficiency technologies. The Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007 (H.R. 2776) makes good on this promise.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007 would accelerate the use of clean domestic renewable energy sources and alternative fuels. The bill provides long-term tax incentives encouraging the production of electricity from renewable energy -- including energy derived from wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, river currents, ocean tides, landfill gas, and trash combustion resources. The bill also provides tax incentives for the production of renewable fuels such as cellulosic alcohol, biodiesel and renewable diesel, and clarifies the eligibility for these incentives in order to ensure the continued growth of our domestic renewable fuel industry.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007 would promote the use of energy-efficient products, practices and conservation. The bill includes tax incentives for manufacturers to build appliances that push the boundaries of efficiency, helps working families afford fuel-efficient plug-in hybrid vehicles, and includes incentives for businesses to create energy-efficient workplaces. The bill creates a new partnership between the Federal government and State and local governments that would provide local leaders with the ability to raise interest-free funds to implement a broad range of energy conservation programs such as investing in mass transit, constructing bicycle trails, and encouraging the development of green buildings.

Finally, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007 would increase research, development and deployment of clean renewable energy and efficiency technologies. The bill provides State and local governments with the ability to raise interest-free funds to invest in research facilities and to make research grants to support research in, among other things, the development of cellulosic ethanol, technologies for the capture and sequestration of carbon dioxide, and automobile battery technologies. The bill encourages the deployment of renewable energy by providing electric cooperatives and public power providers with new clean renewable energy bonds that will allow these entities to install facilities that would generate electricity from renewable resources. It also provides States with the ability and incentive to implement low-interest loan programs and grant programs that will help working families purchase energy-efficient appliances, make energy-efficient home improvements, or install solar panels, small wind turbines, and geothermal heat pumps.

As promised in H.R. 6, these investments in renewable energy and energy conservation would be funded by repealing tax breaks for the oil and gas industry.

In addition to the subsidies that were repealed in H.R. 6 (i.e., the tax breaks for geological and geophysical expenditures and the unjustified extension of a domestic manufacturing tax incentives to the oil and gas industry), H.R. 2776 would also close a loophole that often allows the oil and gas industry to shift the cost of foreign oil and gas extraction taxes away from away from these companies and onto American taxpayers.

House Report 110-214:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Relevant Information:

Packet on HR 2776, Committee on Ways and Means

H.R. 3221 - NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT *(Rep. Pelosi) (Subject to a Rule)*

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: [Summary and Text of Amendments Submitted](#), [Special Announcement](#)

Committees: [Committee on Energy and Commerce](#), [Committee on Education and Labor](#), [Committee on Foreign Affairs](#), [Committee on Small Business](#), [Committee on Science and Technology](#), [Committee on Agriculture](#), [Committee on Oversight and Government Reform](#), [Committee on Natural Resources](#), [Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure](#), [Committee on Armed Services](#)

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

Education and Labor Committee, Green Jobs – Title I

- This title creates an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program to train a quality workforce for good “green” jobs -- such as solar panel manufacturers and green building construction workers -- that are created by federal renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives.
- This program will provide training opportunities to our veterans, to those displaced by national energy and environmental policy and economic globalization, to individuals seeking pathways out of poverty, to at risk youth and to those workers in the energy field needing to update their skills.
- A major national investment in renewable energy could create 3 million green collar jobs.

Foreign Affairs Committee, The International Climate Cooperation Re-engagement – Title II

- This title states that the U.S. should re-engage in and lead the effort to reach a global agreement that requires binding emissions reduction commitments from all the major emitters including China, India, and Brazil.
- To reduce global greenhouse emissions worldwide, it directs the federal government to promote U.S. energy exports in clean, efficient technologies to India and China and other developing countries.
- The title also creates a new position within the Department of State, the Ambassador at Large for Global Climate Change, to serve as the lead advisor to the President and Secretary of State on these issues.

Small Business Committee, The Small Energy Efficient Businesses – Title III

- This title gives small businesses tools they need to be more energy efficient and increase our energy independence, by increasing loan limits to help small businesses develop energy efficient technologies and purchases, and increasing investment in small firms that are developing renewable energy solutions.
- It provides technical assistance to small businesses to reduce energy costs.

Science and Technology Committee – Title IV

- To spur innovation, the initiative includes a measure to create an Energy Department agency to coordinate revolutionary, high-payoff energy technology research and development that private industry is not likely to pursue on its own. (H.R. 364, Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E))
- The initiative reorganizes the Bush Administration's climate change research program. (H.R. 906, the Global Change Research and Data Management Act)
- It requires federal research, development, and demonstration on carbon capture and sequestration (H.R. 1933, the Energy Carbon Capture, Storage Research, Development and Demonstration Act) and promotes research on biofuels. (H.R. 2773, The Biofuels Research and Development Enhancement Act)
- In addition, this initiative includes measures to bolster research on solar energy (H.R. 2774), geothermal energy (H.R. 2304), and marine renewable energy (H.R. 2313).

Agriculture Committee (based on energy title of Farm Bill) – Title V

- Invests over \$2.5 billion to help rural communities, farmers, ranchers and small businesses by reducing their energy costs through energy efficiency and promoting renewable fuels, including cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel.
- This title helps finance the cost of developing and constructing biorefineries and biofuel production plants to carry out projects to demonstrate the commercial viability of converting biomass to fuels or chemicals.
- It continues funding for the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program to award competitive grants to nonprofit organizations that educate governmental and private entities operating vehicle fleets, and educate the public about the benefits of biodiesel fuel use.
- It increases Funding for the Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Improvements Program, which authorizes loans, loan guarantees, and grants to farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems and to make energy efficiency improvements.
- It extends and Funds the Biomass Research and Development Program to provide competitive funding for research and development projects on biofuels and bio-based chemicals and products.
- It improves and Increases Funding for the Bioenergy Program, which provides production incentives for increases in production of ethanol and biodiesel made from agricultural and forestry crops and associated waste materials, including animal manure and livestock/food processing waste.
- It establishes a Forest Bioenergy Research Program to address the specific issues facing the use of woody biomass for bioenergy production.
- It promotes the Federal Procurement of Biobased Products by providing funds for the testing and labeling of biobased products and for expanding awareness of the BioPreferred Program.

Oversight and Government Reform Committee: Carbon-Neutral Government – Title VI

- To make the federal government a leader on reducing global warming, this title sets an ambitious goal requiring federal government operations to be carbon-neutral by 2050, with annual government-wide emissions targets. The federal government is the largest energy consumer in the United States.
- Under the legislation, federal agencies must inventory their greenhouse gas emissions, freeze emissions in 2010, and then reduce net emissions by at least two percent each year to achieve zero emissions by 2050.
- The title contains new energy and fuel efficiency policies for federal operations, including minimum greenhouse gas emissions standards for federal fleet vehicles, green building standards for new federal buildings, and expanded authority for agencies to purchase renewable energy.

Natural Resources Committee, Energy Policy Reform and Revitalization – Title VII

- This title ensures greater accountability to the taxpayer from companies that are drilling for oil and gas on federal lands. Among other provisions, it requires more audits to ensure American taxpayers aren't being cheated out of the royalties they are due for the extraction of these publicly-owned resources.
- It authorizes a nationwide assessment of geological formations capable of sequestering carbon dioxide underground, as well as a review of the potential for carbon sequestration in ecosystems.
- The title establishes a national ocean observation system to gather information for climate change research, national defense, and marine commerce, a key recommendation of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative.
- It ensures the development of a national strategy to assist wildlife populations and their habitats in adapting to the impacts of climate change, and provides states with new funding to assist wildlife in adapting to global warming.
- The title would ensure oil companies that were awarded the 1998 and 1999 royalty-free leases for drilling pay their fair share in royalties.

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Transportation Energy Security and Climate Change Mitigation – Title VIII

- This title takes action to cut energy use and carbon emissions by encouraging people to take mass transit, encouraging states to carry out transportation projects that reduce air pollution, and increasing federal help for local governments to purchase alternative fuel buses, locomotives and ferries.
- This title requires the General Services Administration to use energy efficient and renewable energy systems in Federal government buildings.
- It directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study the potential for increased hydroelectric power generation at its facilities.

- In addition, it directs the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to study its ability to respond to an increased number of natural disasters created or intensified by global climate change.

Energy and Commerce Committee – Title IX

- In landmark efforts to strengthen energy efficiency, this title sets new efficiency standards for appliances such as refrigerators and freezers, requires more efficient lighting and promotes green buildings in the Federal and private sector, and works to speed up Energy Department action on new efficiency standards (after six years of reversal and delay of critical efficiency standards).
- These efficiency provisions will reduce energy costs to consumers and remove as much as 10 billion tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by 2030.
- For cities, counties, and states, the title establishes an Energy and Environment Block Grant to be used for seed money for innovative local best practices to achieve greater energy efficiency and lower energy usage.
- It also promotes homegrown alternative fuels by providing assistance for the installation and conversion of E-85 fuel pumps and the production of flex-fuel vehicles that run on renewable fuel, and increases the amount of grants for cellulosic ethanol production to \$1 billion.
- Another provision encourages the domestic development and production of advanced technology vehicles and the next generation of vehicle batteries and plug-in hybrid vehicles.
- The title also creates a "Smart" electric grid to modernize and strengthen the reliability and energy savings of our electricity supply and improves the Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Program for projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and employ improved technologies.

Relevant Information:

Energy bill Summary, Office of the Speaker